Sediment Listings in Category 5--the 303(d) List

Background

The Toxics Cleanup Program provides information on state-wide sediment contamination and the relationship it has with water quality and potential impairment of waterbodies in the state. This information is provided to Ecology's Water Quality Program for use in the listing of impaired water bodies for the Section 303d list. This is being provided because the Sediment Management Standards were approved by the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Program as Water Quality Standards. As such, the sediment data that is in violation of the Sediment Management Standards are considered for 303d listing purposes in much the same manner as the water-column water quality violations.

Sediment Listings

The Toxics Cleanup Program develops and maintains the Sediment Quality Information system (SEDQUAL database) which was used as the basis for assessing the sediment toxicity for purposes of identifying contaminated sites. In waters of Puget Sound (as defined in WAC 173-204-200(20)), segments were placed on Category 5 (*the 303(d) list*) for pollutants in the sediment if the segment is part of a site on Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program's Contaminated Sediment Site List, including the 1996 published list (Ecology Pub. No. 96-1155-CP, May 1996) and unpublished sites identified since 1996.

However, segments that have an active cleanup in process and meet the criteria listed for Category 4B (*Has a Pollution Control Plan)* will instead be placed in that category. A segment will be placed in Category 2 (*Waters of Concern*) when the segment is not included on this list but at least one sample taken within the segment exceeds the applicable Sediment Quality Standard. There is no Category 1 (*Meets tested standards and considered clean*) list of contaminated sediment. Ecology did not populate this category because testing results for these sites were insufficient to conclude that a particular segment could be considered clean.

Waters outside Puget Sound were not considered for the 1996 Contaminated Sediment Site List. In marine waters not considered for the 1996 Contaminated Sediment Site List, segments were placed on Category 5 list for pollutants in the sediment if the segment is of potential concern because the average of the three highest concentrations for any chemical, biological effects, or other reserved criteria exceeds the cleanup screening level for any three stations identified within a station cluster, as described in WAC 173-204-500 through 173-204-590.

For freshwater or low salinity sediments, assessment for potential listing of segments on the 303(d) list were based on biological tests in accordance with adopted narrative standards, and will be done in accordance with WAC 173-204-330 and 173-204-340. There are no numeric sediment quality standards in WACs for chemical effects in

freshwater or low salinity sediments. However, information on chemical effects in these areas can be used to place a segment in the *Waters of Concern* category. (See Ecology, *Creation and Analysis of Freshwater Sediment Quality Values in Washington State,* Pub. No. 97-323a, July 1997.) Bioassay segments may be placed on Category 2 when the listing criteria is not met (i.e., there are < 3 *points* per segment). Category 4B may contain freshwater sediment chemical and bioassay segments when legally enforceable mechanisms [(i.e., MTCA Cleanup Action Plan (CAP), CERCLA Record of Decision (ROD), or RCRA Corrective Measures (CM)] have been signed in the given segment. Category 5 may contain freshwater sediment bioassay segments when the listing criteria is met (i.e., there are ≥ 3 *points* per segment). Category 5 should not contain any freshwater sediment chemical segments.

Separation of Contaminated Sediment Listings from Water Quality Listings

After finding numerous errors and inaccuracies in trying to merge the SEDQUAL information into the water quality database, it was determined that sediment listings would be most accurately reflected using the SEDQUAL database information directly. Therefore, listings for the Water Quality Assessment categories for sediment are listed separately from the water column listings. Because the SEDQUAL system has its own GIS interface, it is referenced as a map tool for locating sediment listings.